2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

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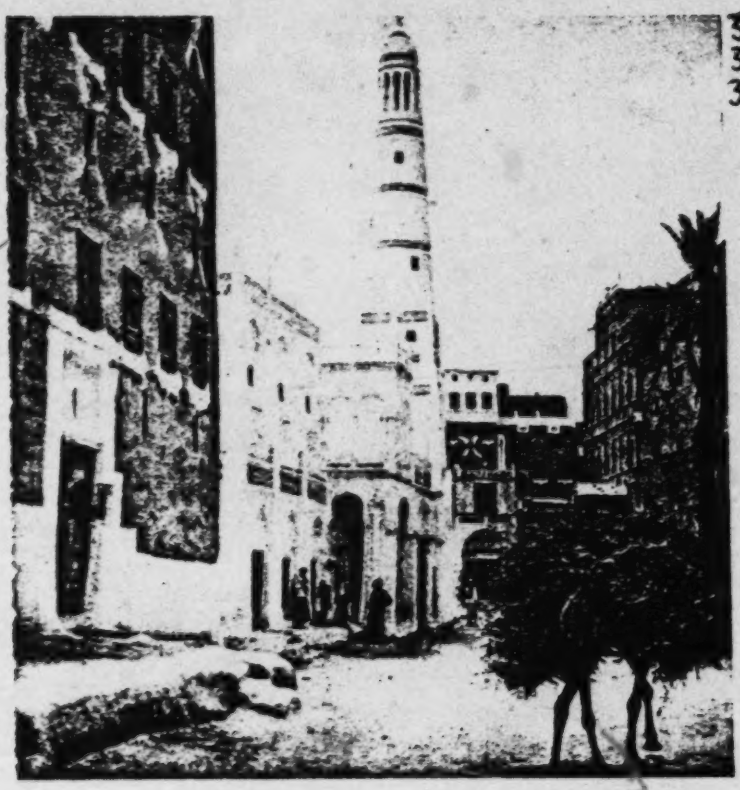


[Frontispiece

A MOSQUE IN SAIYUN—THE HADHRAMAUT

[facing p. III]

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1956 MM1 Aden MM1

Aden

That Aden still possessed some fine buildings even as late as 1710 we know from the record left by a French traveller who, after referring to the "handsome" aqueduct which had been built originally in 1500 to bring water into the town from Sheikh Othman ten miles away, and deploring the state of the fortifications, referred to the town in the following terms:

"The city is still considerably large and one may still see several handsome houses two storeys high with flat roofs, but there is also an abundance of rubbish and ruins. It must be owned that there is nothing finer of its kind than the baths there. They are lined with marble or jasper and covered with a handsome dome, having a hole at the top to let in light, and adorned on the inside with galleries supported by magnificent pillars."[1]

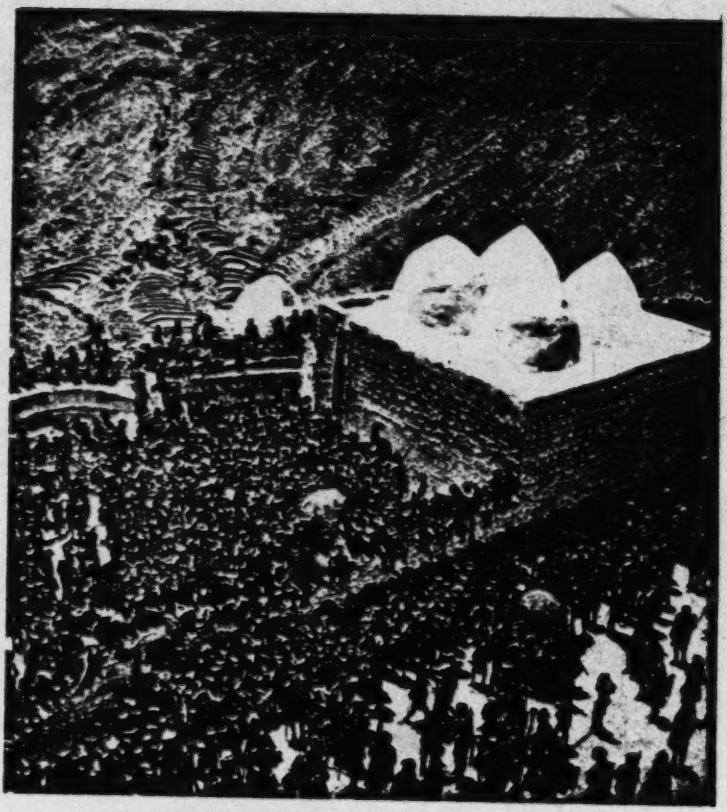
There was no sign of this delightful place when I arrived, nor were there any public baths, swimming or otherwise, until twenty-four years later when I opened the handsome Municipal Swimming Bath in Holkat Bay, but by 1931 Aden was by no means in an "exigent condition of poverty and neglect". Far from it; it was a flourishing town, though all that remained of the ancient splendour was the tall white minaret in Crater overlooking what is now the Football Stadium. A lonely ghost from the past whose mosque has long since disappeared.

My disagreeable first impression remains with many travellers for the rest of their lives and the mere mention of the name Aden is sufficient to conjure up in their imaginations an exaggerated recollection of heat, haze and noise and, above all, a barrenness beyond belief.

In the early nineteen-thirties fresh water from wells in the village of Sheikh Othman had only recently been brought in to the main town and the population were still dependent mainly on condensed water for drinking purposes, and there was virtually no water at all for gardens or any other form of cultivation. Only a few like myself succeeded in penetrating the haze and forgetting the lack of vegetation and the discomfort of prickly heat, as we became more and more absorbed with the people and their problems and travelled beyond the

[1] Dr. J. C. Young, *Ancient History of Aden*, 1923.

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1



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AL QARA—TRIBESMEN SWARMING ROUND THE MOSQUE AFTER OUR ARRIVAL

[facing p. 131]

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

with us and was now returning to his work somewhere on the Abiyan plain. I had no armed escort from the Government Guards. The safety of my companions and myself rested with the Sultan who was fully prepared to accept his responsibility. In fact, if I had attempted to take an armed escort on this particular trip, we would almost certainly have never got to Al Qara at all. The independent-minded tribesmen would undoubtedly have resisted the movement of armed men into their country and we should have been faced with the alternative of turning back or having to force a passage. Not really an alternative because I had not, in those days, a sufficient force at my disposal to overcome spirited resistance from thousands of tribesmen in that tangle of hills.

QUAITI

Both during my term of office as Governor and during my earlier periods of service in Aden I paid frequent visits to Mukalla, the capital of the Quaiti State in the Eastern Aden Protectorate, which nestles below a high hill feature on which stand the now empty watch towers that in days gone by protected the wealthy merchants of the town from bedouin raiders. Mukalla has a fascinating little harbour and the town is grouped attractively round a bay filled with the bluest water that I have ever seen. Viewed from the broad beach outside the ancient gateway as the sun is setting, the town and the hill behind it are suffused with a golden light, and the slender white minarets of the Mosques are a delicate shade of pink. It is really beautiful.

Here in Mukalla are not only the business houses of the merchants who trade with the Far East and Aden and supply the Hadhramaut with its innumerable wants, but also the palace of the Sultan, the British Residency, and the Government Offices of the Quaiti administration. Outside the walls of the town are the depot of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion and the barracks of the Mukalla Regular Army and the Quaiti Armed Constabulary. Here also is the Bedouin Boys' School, a boarding school for the sons of tribesmen run by the State on the

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

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lines of a military school where the discipline is strict and the [292] boys are taught to be self-reliant. Dressed in their school uniform of blue smock, gathered at the waist with a red sash [541] and a white cotton head cloth held in place by a black cord, these boys put on a physical training display on gala occasions which would not disgrace the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court.

643 The old Sultan, His Highness Sir Saleh bin Ghalib, K.C.M.G., was a well-read and wise old gentleman whose death in 1956 was a sad blow to his people and to his State. [533] I have enjoyed his hospitality on more than one occasion and listened with pleasure to his band which, under an Indian Bandmaster, played Eastern and Western tunes with equal facility. It was this band that played at Government House in Aden when Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, honoured me with their presence at lunch in 1954. His Highness was himself present on that occasion, together with other representatives of the Protectorate and the [523] Colony. In his own house after dinner it was the Sultan's custom to entertain his guests with a cinema show which, whether composed of commercial productions or of films he had himself produced and photographed, was always entertaining, even though the sound was rather overpowering: I could never understand, since he was certainly not deaf, why he always had the sound turned up to such a degree that one was almost deafened. The Sultan loved anything to do with films and knew more than most amateurs about the mechanism of his cameras, projectors and tape recorders. It was in Mukalla that I saw and heard Charlie Chaplin speaking Arabic; an Arabic sound track having been added by the Sultan himself to one of the old silent Chaplin films.

636 Politically the State was more advanced than most of the
643 Protectorate States and His Highness ruled with the aid of a
645 State Council, on which were not only the able Sudanese Chief Minister and the astute Pakistani Finance Minister, but unofficial Arab members representing trading and other interests
642 in the State. Throughout the State, control and government
636 have been decentralised down from the Central Government

Aden

000 inexhaustible energy had reduced me to a physical and nervous wreck—and I was the younger man.

361 Near Mukalla to the east beyond the landing ground at
• 346 Riyan is the collegiate town of Ghil-Ba-Wazir, so called by
249 me because it seemed to consist of nothing but schools sur-
439 rounded by a few fields of Hammumi tobacco which normally was exported to Egypt via Aden. Primary schools and a large
871 State Intermediate School with a considerable boarding establishment catered for the youth of Mukalla and the more
[875] advanced pupils from all over the State. The masters, who were local men or Sudanese on contract, always left me with an impression of keenness, competence and contentment. From Ghil-Ba-Wazir the more promising pupils went on to Aden College or the Technical Institute in Aden, or to a Secondary School in the Sudan, depending on the inclination of the parents or of the Mukalla Government if they were financing the boys' further education.

315 Up in the vast open spaces of the northern limits of the State, survey parties of Petroleum Concessions Ltd. moved farther and farther into territory which was practically unknown to Europeans, on their ceaseless quest for oil, spurred on by recent increases in the cost of their prospecting licence. As these parties pushed their way northwards so did similar parties from the Arabian-American Oil Company at Dhahran on the Persian Gulf in Saudi Arabia move steadily southward with their portable drilling rigs drawn by great tractors and their air-conditioned living caravans, across the great yellow sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali.

712 The frontier became of considerable importance, much more
312 so than it had ever been before and we found it advisable to
626 exercise a greater degree of control over our tribes than had been necessary or desirable in the past. The Sultan was concerned about the peace of these northern marches, and, fearing an act of aggression, felt that steps should be taken to safeguard the well at Thamud, the only available water for many miles around. This was done by building a fort, constructing a landing strip and flying in a garrison of soldiers of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion. Later, similar measures were taken over to

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

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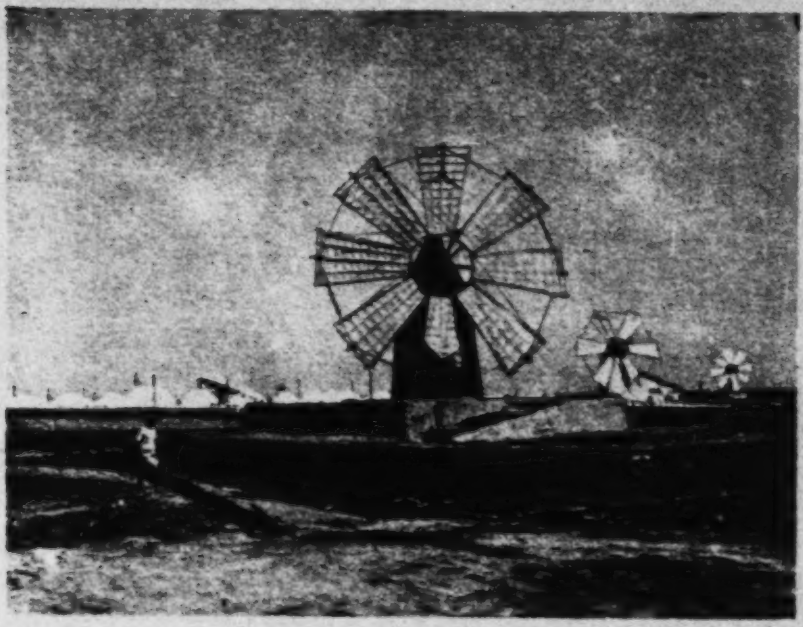

ADEN SALT WORKS

Windmills lift sea water into pans for solar evaporation.

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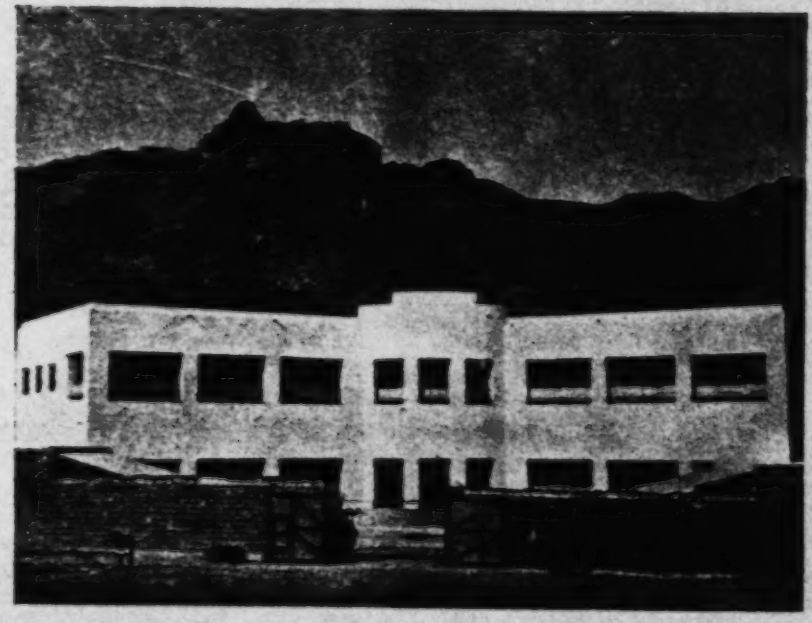

NEW GOVERNMENT GIRLS' SCHOOL, ~~CATER~~

p. 48 (D)

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

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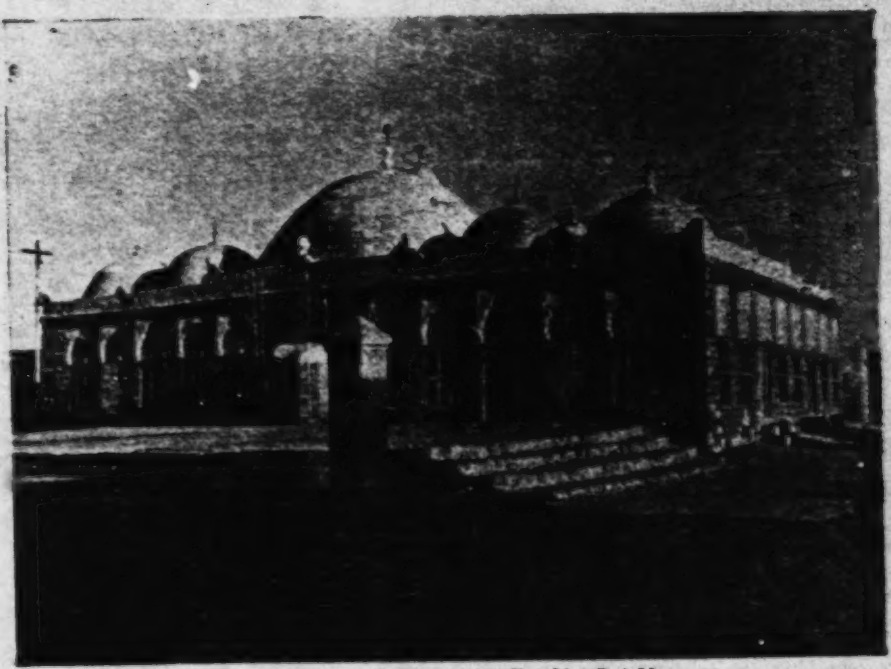

THE MOSQUE IN KAMARAN

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NOMAD FAMILY MOVING HOUSE IN THE PROTECTORATE

Facing P. 46 (D)